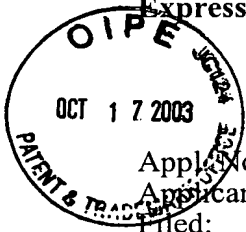


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 60/419,884 Confirmation No.: --
Applicant: David C. Schwartz et al.
Filed: October 18, 2002
TC/Art Unit: --
Examiner: --
Docket No.: 960296.99047
Customer No.: --

**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PRIORITY
CLAIM UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120, INCLUDING STATEMENT OF
UNINTENTIONAL DELAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. §1.78**

Mail Stop Conversion
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The present Application is a nonprovisional patent application that has been converted from U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/419,884, in accordance with a Request to Convert Provisional Application to Nonprovisional Application being submitted herewith.

As shown in an accompanying Preliminary Amendment also being submitted herewith, it is desired that the present Application claim the benefit of U. S. patent application No. 09/962,802 filed Sept. 24, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,610,256, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 08/855,410 filed May 13, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,294,136, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 08/415,710 filed Apr. 3, 1995, now U. S. Patent No. 5,720,928.

Because the present Application has a filing date of October 18, 2002 (insofar as it was converted from U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/419,884 filed on that date), it is impossible for the Applicants to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(ii) in making the above priority claim.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3), therefore, the Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to accept a delayed claim for the benefit of the above-identified applications as set forth in the accompanying Preliminary Amendment.

10/23/2003 CCHAU1 00000134 170055 60419884

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Further in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3), the Applicants state that the entire delay between the date that this claim was due under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(ii) (e.g., February 18, 2003, four months subsequent to the filing date of the present Application as converted from U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/419,884) and the date this claim was filed in the accompanying Preliminary Amendment was unintentional.

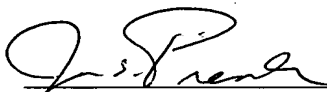
Also in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3), the Applicants hereby authorize the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(t) to be charged to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Please feel free to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below if there are any questions or any additional information is required in connection with this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Schwartz et al.

Date: 10/17/03



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